



Cape Forester and Mount Parsons from Sleepy Bay, Freycinet Peninsula, Tasmania, Australia.
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President's Report

The last six months since the AGM in September have been hectic, with the new committee rising to the challenges admirably, and starting to settle into a steady pattern now that the fundraiser is over and we're able to start looking at the newfound capability that the Australian public has provided us with their donations.

Lots of routine paperwork was filed in the first two months with the state governments of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. In order to be able to participate in the Wikimedia Fundraiser, the state governments were informed of the new committee members, the 50:50 split between Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia Australia, and who will be responsible in each of the three states on the Eastern coast.

The Fundraiser has been an overwhelming success. We raised \$340,000 in Australia, of which 50% is given to the Wikimedia Foundation. We did not manage to set up the payment gateway with Bendigo Bank in time for the fundraiser, meaning we could only proceed with Paypal. Many donors were unwilling to send money through PayPal, and this feedback intensified when Paypal froze donations to WikiLeaks. As a result, many people were looking for alternative donation methods, with some finding the donation page on our website, others finding our contact email address, and likely more potential donors being unable to donate via a system they were comfortable with. Using Paypal was not without its own issues, with the sudden influx of donations causing our account to be locked, and providing them with the necessary documentation to unlock it was held up by their support processes. We also had issues with

identity confusion with WikiLeaks, prompting us to add a small note on our website to explain the confusing name issue.

The collaboration with the State Library of Queensland was a pleasant surprise and a challenge. The SLQ banners during the fundraiser caught the attention of archivists, librarians and bibliophiles around Australia. The donation of 50,000 images is one of the largest that the Wikimedia Commons repository has received since it was established in 2004. Craig and I met with the library staff before the collaboration and again late in December after the image upload had begun. The entire project team at the library attended the second meeting, allowing us to better appreciate the scale of the project on their side, and discuss some of the finer aspects of the donation project and possibilities for future collaboration. Monthly reports are published on the Wikimedia Commons website, documenting the upload progress and extent of community engagement from Wikimedia Commons and English Wikipedia.

Now that we have the image upload software developed, we are keen to replicate this collaboration with other state libraries and smaller institutions with similar collections. I encourage members and non-members in Australia to start talking with these institutions in their area, knowing that Wikimedia Australia has the technical resources and commitment to support them in whatever way is necessary. If an institution's media repository isn't supported by our upload software, we will develop the missing software components.

One of the significant structural

improvements to the chapter has been the development and adoption of a proposal process. With this, the committee formalised the process by which members can put forward large proposals, and can take these proposals to a vote at a special general meeting if the committee fails to support it. Over the course of 2011 we are expecting many exciting proposals from our members.

Memberships have risen substantially since the AGM in September, from 34 to 62. We have also seen a significant improvement in the gender and state distribution of members, with increased numbers of women becoming members, and a trend towards a more balanced representation between the states, and between capital cities and rural areas.

John.

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Annual General Meeting Report

Held on 19 September 2010, there were some initial delays in getting the Annual General Meeting underway, as traffic problems meant that the planned national teleconference was unable to be organised. Instead the meeting was conducted using a combination of IRC and normal phones – not ideal circumstances, but with the goodwill of all involved the meeting was able to proceed.

Eighteen members were able to take part, although Steve Peters was prevented from attending at the last minute. In his absence the meeting was chaired by Brian Salter-Duke, and it was able to get underway just before 3pm AEST.

Once the minutes from the previous AGM and the reports from the President, Treasurer and Secretary had been tabled,

the business focused on the appointment of the new committee for 2010/2011. The offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary were unopposed, so John Vandenberg, Adam Jenkins, Craig Franklin and Sarah Ewart were accepted into the posts.

However, as three people had nominated for the two Ordinary Member positions, it was necessary that voting be conducted prior to the AGM. Thus at the meeting it was announced that Charles Gregory and Andrew Owens were the successful candidates.

The other major business for the AGM was to look at two proposed changes to the Chapter's rules. The first related to the manner in which members nominate to committee positions, proposing to allow members to nominate for both an office position and an ordinary member

post, and allowing them to withdraw from the latter if they were successful in the former. The second proposed that "corporations and other bodies may become affiliates of the association by resolution of the management committee", and permits affiliated bodies to send non-voting representatives to general meetings. The first change passed, and has subsequently been accepted by Consumer Affairs Victoria. The second proposed change was unable to gain the requisite 70% support.

The meeting concluded at 4:05 AEST with a vote of thanks to the outgoing committee.

Recent Changes Camp Report

In early 2010 Wikimedia Australia was invited to take part in the Recent Changes Camp (RCC) 2011 at the University of Canberra. It was an exciting opportunity, and thanks to the fundraiser we were able to assist by sponsoring

Mark Dille as the event's facilitator and to help several Australians attend by covering their travel costs.

The RCC model is that of an "unconference", and thus the schedule is developed in real time through consensus, and is subject to change. This made for an interesting three days for the participants, who came from all over Australia and from a variety of professions – and while there was a strong contingent of editors from the Wikimedia Foundation projects, the wide range of backgrounds and interests from a variety of different projects kept things from being too focused on any one topic. Subjects covered over the course of the event included WikiCulture, wiki-based facilitation, Wikisource and Wikiversity, Appropedia and WikiTravel, why wikis don't work, and using wiki's in education. It was an intense three days. Along with the semi-formal sessions and the information gained through them, general discussions between the participants have led to some interesting

possibilities for WMAu in the future.

Congratulations and thanks should go to the primary organisers, Laura Hale and Leigh Blackall, to the University of Canberra for providing the excellent facilities, and to Mark Dille, who did a fantastic job as facilitator. Future RCCs are planned for both Australia and New Zealand, and if Canberra's event is anything to go by, they should be well worth attending.

More information about the event is available at Wikiversity:

http://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/University_of_Canberra/RCC2011.



Some of the attendees at the Recent Changes Camp in Canberra, 2011. Mark Dilly, the event's facilitator, can be seen leaning forward on the left side of the front row. Photo by Leigh Blackall, January 21, 2011. Creative Commons Attribution 2.0

Working Group on Election Procedures

The Wikimedia Australia Committee would like to reexamine the Chapter's election procedures, with the aim of improving both the independence of the election process and the transparency. Towards this end it was decided to form a Working Group of members, chaired by Adam Jenkins, to examine the options available and to bring a proposal or proposals to the committee for consideration.

Terms of Reference

The Working Group is free to consider and propose any process which they deem would provide sufficient independence and transparency in the

election process so as to meet the current and medium-term needs of the Chapter. This could include, but is not limited to, changes to the software used to run the election, changes to the nomination process, the use of an independent Returning Officer, the use of postal votes, and the employment of external organisations to manage the election process. They may also suggest changes to the constitution, should that be deemed necessary, and such changes may be put to the membership through a Special General Meeting. It is expected that any recommended changes to the process would be in place prior to the running of the next Annual General

Meeting in the second half of 2011.

Call for Expressions of Interest

As the intent is for this process not to be committee-specific, the committee are calling for expressions of interest from members interested in being a part of the Working Group.

Expressions of interest can be sent directly to the chair of the working group, Adam Jenkins, at vicepresident@wikimedia.org.au or to the Committee via committee@wikimedia.org.au

2010/2011 Committee

President: John Vandenberg

John currently works in an administrative capacity in the Research Services Directorate at the University of New England. He has a Graduate Diploma from the Queensland University of Technology, and has worked as a network and software engineer as well as lecturing at TAFE and private colleges.

John has long been connected with the Wikimedia projects, having been both a sitting Arbitrator on the English Wikipedia and an administrator on the English Wikipedia and Wikisource.

Vice President: Adam Jenkins

Adam is currently employed as an academic in the School of Computer Science at the University of South Australia, where he lectures in and researches a variety of topics related to both IT and Information Systems. He has a BA (Hons) majoring in Philosophy and Classical History from the University of Adelaide, and is currently working part time on a Doctorate in Knowledge

Management.

Secretary: Sarah Ewart

Sarah is the longest continually serving member of the committee: she was a part of the inaugural 2008 committee, and was subsequently elected as Secretary in 2009 and 2010. Sarah majored in Journalism as part of an Arts degree.

Treasurer: Craig Franklin

Craig works as a business analyst, focusing on statutory financial reporting, cost accounting, and business intelligence. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Queensland University of Technology and is currently studying for a Master's degree in library science and knowledge management. He has been involved in Wikimedia since 2004, creating dozens of new articles, especially on Australian history, political figures, and cricketers.

Ordinary Member: Charles Gregory

Charles was on the interim committee

which started Wikimedia Australia, and has been editing on Wikipedia on-and-off since 2002, with continual involvement since 2007, and has managed to rack up over 18,000 edits in his time with the project. Charles is based in Tasmania.

Ordinary Member: Andrew Owens

Andrew is based in Perth, and contributes to Wikipedia, Commons and Wikisource - although his focus has been the English Wikipedia project. Andrew has a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems from Murdoch University and a Certificate IV of Training and Assessment from West Coast Institute of Training, and is currently completing a Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) and Bachelor of Science (Mathematics and Statistics). He has been involved in the IT industry for many years, although his professional interests now lie in education.

Small Grants Scheme

A recent expansion of the Small Grants Scheme allows for grants of up to \$200. Small grants can be approved for a variety of projects, including, but not limited to:

- The purchase of photographic equipment.
- Venue hire for local events, such as Wiki meetups.
- Travel costs for photographic or research expeditions.

- Purchasing or accessing research material.
- Attendance fees for courses related to the development of free cultural works.

The Small Grants Scheme is intended as a lightweight method of gaining assistance for small projects, without requiring the complexities of the larger formal proposal process.

Grants have included the provision of

assistance with conference attendance, support for wiki meetups, and assistance for a photographic expedition to Canberra.

Applications are open to all current Wikimedia Australia members, and details are available from:

http://www.wikimedia.org.au/wiki/Small_grants

State Library of Queensland

The collaboration with the State Library of Queensland was a pleasant surprise and a challenge. Their donation of 50,000 images is one of the largest that the Wikimedia Commons repository has received since it was established in 2004. Craig and I met with the library staff

before the collaboration and again late in December after the image upload had begun. The entire project team at the library attended the second meeting, allowing us to better appreciate the scale of the project on their side, and discuss some of the finer aspects of the donation project and possibilities for future collaboration.

With the donation coinciding with the annual fundraiser, we were able to run banners across the top of Wikipedia saying "Thank you, State Library of Queensland." Readers who clicked these banners were presented with a longer description of the image donation, and given the option to donate to Wikimedia Australia and the Wikimedia Foundation. The banners caught the attention of archivists, librarians and bibliophiles around Australia, and were received well by journalists and social media feedback.

Behind the scenes, Wikimedia Australia developed specialised software to copy the 50,000 image from the SLQ

repository to the Commons repository. This software uses the industry standard OAI-PMH metadata protocol commonly used by library repositories in Australia, and around the world. With this software developed, anyone can undertake similar collaborations. Discussions along these lines have been started with a few other libraries in Australia. If you are interested in setting up a collaboration with an institution in your area, and want to know more about the software and process, contact Wikimedia Australia. and we welcome more.

Wikimedia Australia provides the State Library of Queensland with monthly reports documenting the upload progress and extent of community engagement from Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia. These reports, and more information about the collaboration is available at Commons:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:State_Library_of_Queensland.

John



1883 Brisbane flood, corner of Edward and Mary street. One of over 10,000 public domain images donated in 2010 to Wikimedia Commons by the State Library of Queensland. Photo by Paul C. Poulsen. Public domain.

Special General Meeting

As recently announced on the mailing list, a Special General Meeting has been called for 16 April 2011, 14:00-16:00 AEST. Participation will be via teleconference or IRC, with a number of members organising meetups for the day. Full information about venues can be found at:

http://www.wikimedia.org.au/wiki/Meeting:2011_SGM

Those intending to take part via IRC will need to advise the committee (via

secretary@wikimedia.org.au) of their IRC handles at least 24 hours before the meeting will be held. Similarly, members may appoint a proxy, but they will need to complete the proxy form and email it to returningofficer@wikimedia.org.au no later than 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

The meeting is to consider vacating the current secretary's role and appointing a new member to the role, in accordance with Rule 30(1); rule amendments as

outlined on the SGM page linked to above, and a proposal to establish a classical music scholarship program.

Queries can be made to secretary@wikimedia.org.au, or raised via the mailing list.

Around the Chapter

Photographic Expeditions

Wikipedia editors and Commons contributors Gngarra and Bidgee recently took part in photographic expeditions with the support of Wikimedia Australia - Bidgee through the Small Grants Scheme, and Gngarra through the new proposals process. Bidgee's trip to Canberra resulted in a large number of new and excellent photos being added to Commons, many of which are already illustrating articles, while Gngarra's trip to the Dunsborough and Busselton regions in Western Australia also resulted in many fine pictures, and included interviews for the ABC.



Wonnerup House as photographed by Gngarra, 25 March 2011. Creative Commons Attribution 2.5.

Liam Wyatt

In January Liam Wyatt was appointed as the sixth Wikimedia Foundation fellow. Liam has previously served as a board member of the Chapter, and is currently an active member of the organisation. We would like to congratulate Liam in his new role, and we look forward to working with him in the future.

Auckland Meetup

Laura Hale, one of the Chapter's members, attended an Auckland meetup. Notes from the event are available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Auckland_6

Wikimedia Australia Conference

With the success of the Recent Changes Camp in Canberra, initial planning has begun on the possibility of Wikimedia Australia hosting a conference in late 2011 or early 2012. The conference is to combine academic and general perspectives on the creation and dissemination of free cultural content through wikis, and is intended to be held in Adelaide, South Australia. A formal call for papers is planned, should the proposal go ahead, but submissions will be open to all and collaborative works will be welcomed. Interested parties should contact

adam.jenkins@unisa.edu.au for more information.

In the Media

Media enquires resulting from the 2010 fundraiser, Wikipedia 10 celebrations and the State Library of Queensland donation have seen Wikimedia Australia in the news on at least three occasions over the last few months, including in The Age, News.com.au, and iTnews.

Wikimedia Australia

Wikimedia Australia, Inc.® is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, whose primary aim is to promote equality of opportunity to access and participate in the collaborative creation of Free Cultural Works, especially educational works, and works about Australia, its culture, natural environment, and Australian news and media.

Wikimedia Australia is recognised by the Wikimedia Foundation as an official chapter and as such will offer members an official voice in the global Wikimedia community, whose aim is to create the sum of all human knowledge, freely available in your own language.

The purpose of Wikimedia Australia is to:

- organise and participate in educational and social events that promote development of Free Cultural Works and related open source software systems, in particular wikis
- increase public awareness, support and participation in the projects hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF)
- develop resources to assist Australians in the creation and maintenance of Free Cultural Works

Membership is open to all interested parties, and is available at a rate of AUD\$40 per year, or AUD\$20 for concession holders. Members have full

voting rights at meetings, access to members-only resources, and are able to help steer Wikimedia Australia's direction.

More information is available at the website, www.wikimedia.org.au. To contact the Chapter, email can be sent to contact@wikimedia.org.au. Other contact information can be found at wikimedia.org.au/wiki/contact.

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